

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 2, 10, 4, 9, 11, and 19, cancels claims 1 and 18, leaves claims 3, 5-8, 12-16, 17, and 20 unchanged, and adds new claims 21 and 22. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 2-17 and 19-22.

It is noted that although the Examiner indicated on the Office Action Summary that all of claims 1-20 were rejected, the Examiner did not expressly address dependent claims 3, 5-8, 12-17, or 20 in the detailed action. However, in this response, it is presumed that claims 3, 5-8, 12-17, and 20 inherit the deficiencies of their respective independent claims, which are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and inherit the allowable subject matter of their respective independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 4, 9, 11, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants submit that claims 4, 9, 11, and 19, as now more clearly recited, are in compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112. Therefore, claims 4, 9, 11, and 19 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that claims 2 and 10 are in compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112. Furthermore, each of claims 2 and 10 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 2, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants have amended the claims to include the amendments proposed by Applicants in an Examiner-Initiated Interview conducted on February 15, 2007. The amendments are fully disclosed by the disclosure, for example, at the last paragraph beginning on page 20, and ending on page 21 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 19, as now more clearly recited, are in compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20040120225 to Dalal in view of in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,306 to Lowenthal. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. As indicated above, claims 1 and 18 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot.

New Claims 21 and 22

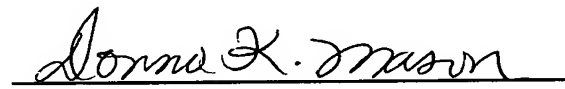
Claims 21 and 22 include the feature of canceled dependent claim 18. Applicants submit that claims 21 and 22 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 2 and 10, respectively.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 2-17 and 19-22 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 2-17 and 19-22 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 520.43064X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donna K. Mason", is written over a horizontal line.

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